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# U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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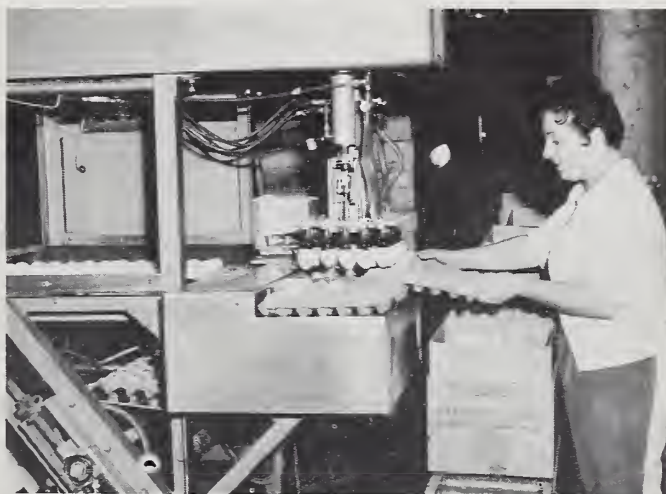
## EGG GRADING AND PACKAGING

AUGUST 1961

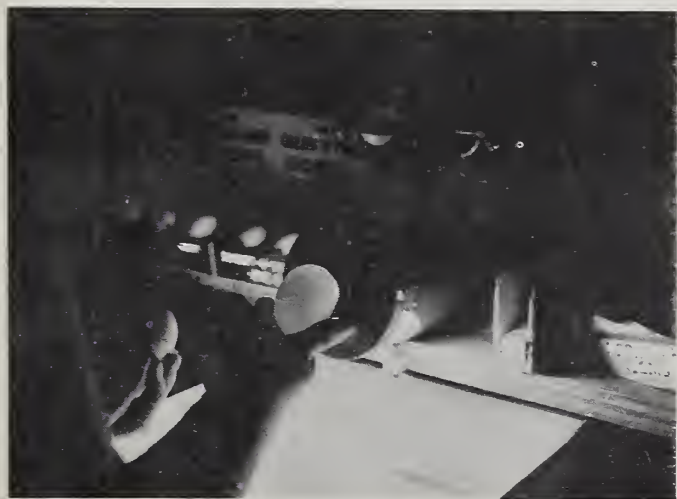
The following USDA photographs illustrate some of the activities involved in the grading and packaging of eggs. The photographs on page 4 illustrate specifically the grading of sample lots of eggs marketed under USDA's "Quality Control" program. Photographs were taken for the Agricultural Marketing Service.



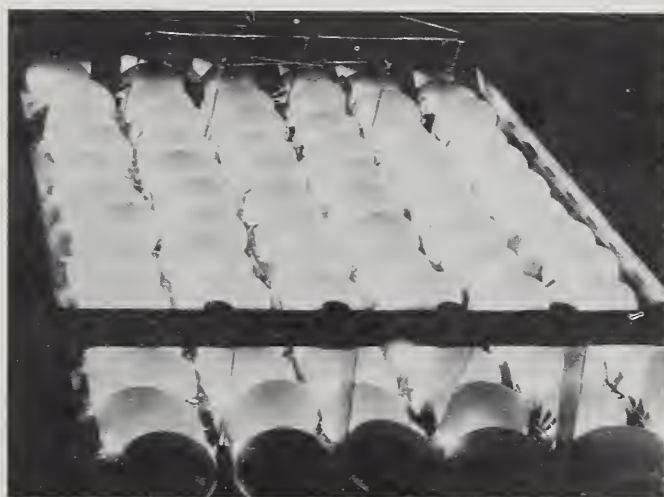
N-37122--Cases of eggs shipped from farms are unloaded from truck at egg grading plant.



N-34169--In packing plant, vacuum lifter takes eggs--one layer at a time--from case packed by producer. Conveyor then moves eggs to cleaner.



N-11103--The proper way to hold eggs while candling. Candling is the time-honored method of determining interior quality of eggs.



BN-10400--Eggs on a flash-candling area of a combination egg line. This area provides for detecting and removing defective eggs, such as those with blind checks and those that are opaque.

*Magazines and newspapers may obtain glossy prints of any of these photographs from the Photography Division, Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C. Others may purchase prints (8 x 10) at \$1.10 each from the same address.*





BN-7925--In this section of an automatic egg handling unit, developed by AMS researchers, eggs are individually weighed and channeled into packaging units.



N-37117--An egg packing plant employee rotates egg into position before candling light to appraise its interior quality, a skill requiring dexterity.



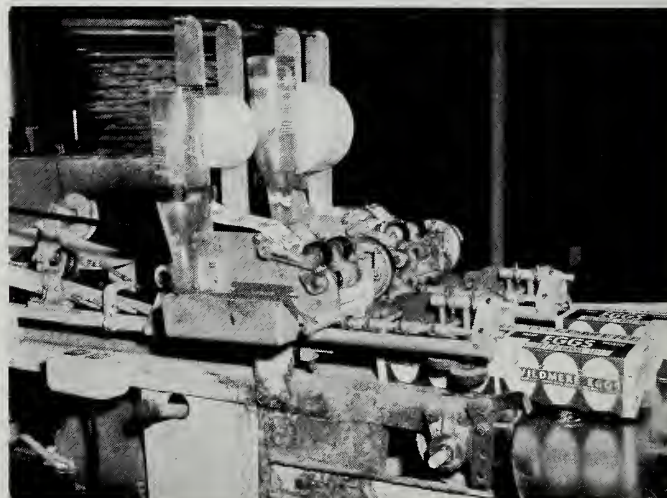
N-37118--An employee of an egg packing plant places eggs into cartons according to quality and weight classes for shipment to retail outlets.



N-24320--Employees perform grading and packaging of eggs at this grading bench. Carton supply is by overhead chute, and disposal of filled cartons is handled by conveyer.

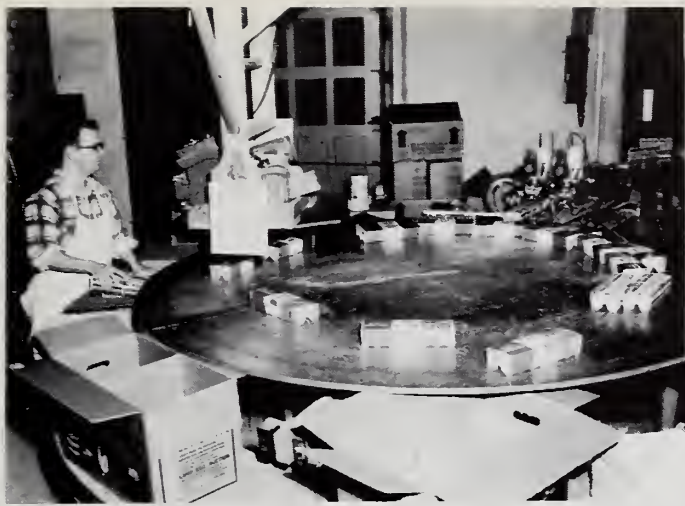


N-24323--Plant employee fills overhead chutes with empty egg cartons to supply employees at grading benches below.



N-37120--Filled egg cartons are automatically closed and sealed with guimmed tape as they pass through this machine.

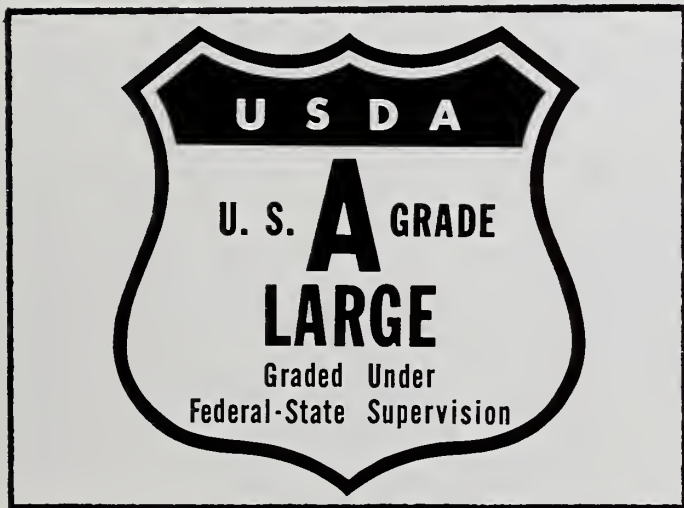




N-24321--Rotating table delivers closed and sealed cartons of eggs to a position within reach of plant employee, who packs them in cases for shipment.



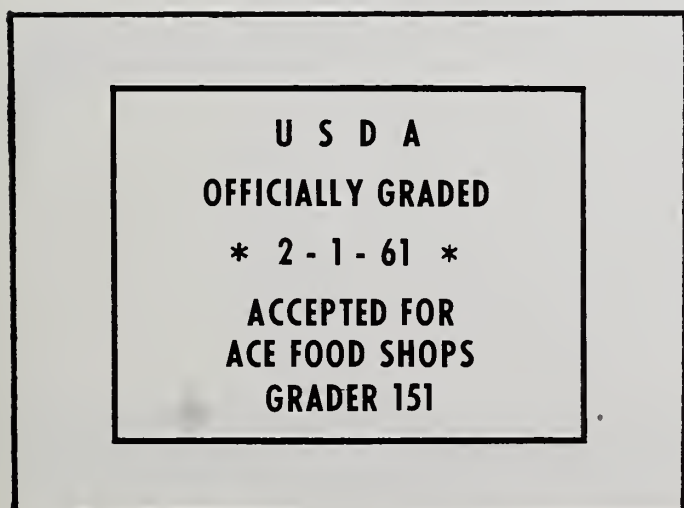
N-37130--Determining interior quality of eggs by candling. The grader must possess good judgment as well as the ability to make split-second decisions over long periods of time.



BN-4296--Official grade mark for cartons or seals on cartons holding one dozen eggs.



N-36983--USDA grader applies acceptance stamp to case of eggs certifying that they meet contract specifications under the Federal-State acceptance service. The service is designed especially for quantity buyers.



BN-12770--Official mark to indicate acceptance under institutional purchase contracts.



N-39932--A food shopper selecting eggs looks for the USDA grade mark on the carton. The grade mark is the shopper's guide to quality.





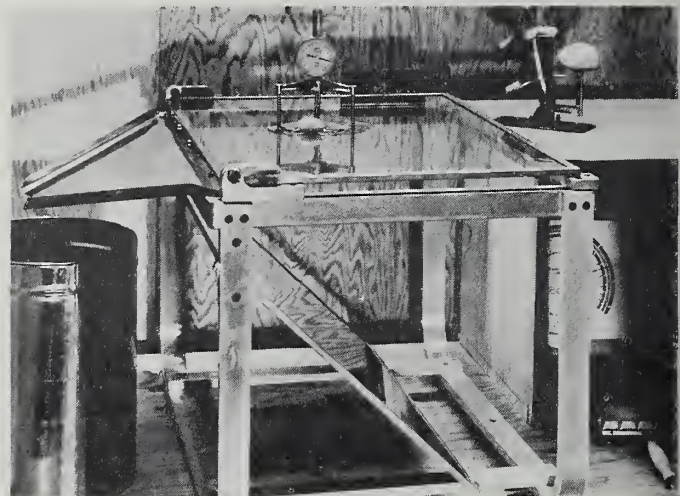
N-37129--Carton of eggs labeled with the USDA Fresh Fancy Quality grade designation under quality control program.



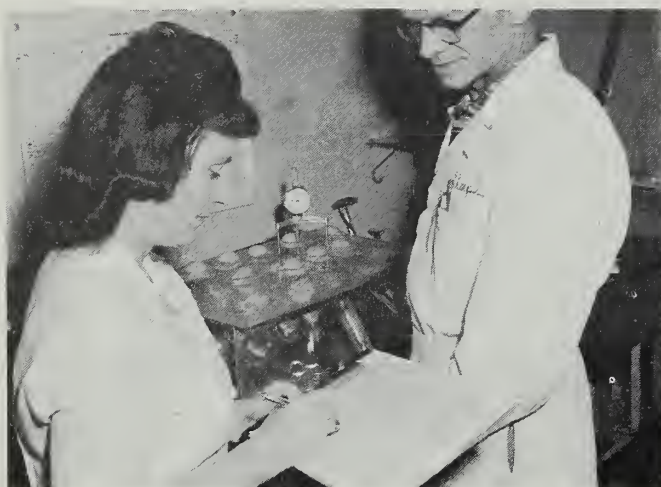
N-37116--With a transferring device, a plant employee transfers a layer of three dozen eggs from the case onto rubber-covered rollers on receiving end of a flash-candler conveyer. The flash-candling device is often used under quality control program to detect eggs with defective shells and those which contain foreign materials.



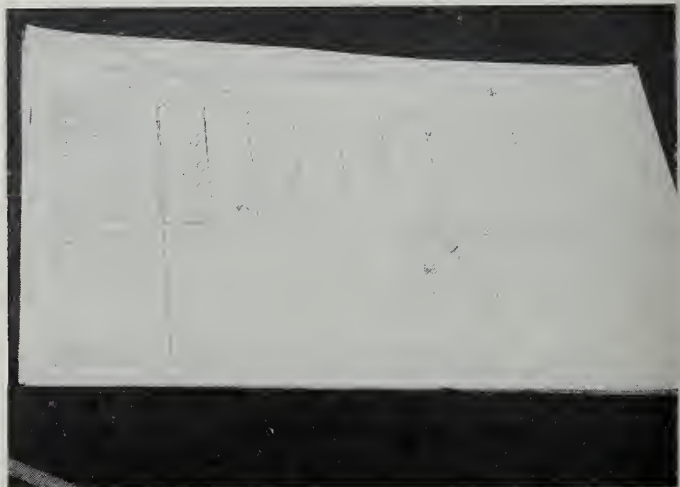
N-37125--Under quality control program testing, a USDA grader measures the height of the thick albumen in broken-out eggs with the aid of a micrometer, or height gage. The readings, in tenths of a millimeter, will be combined with egg weight to calculate interior quality in Haugh units.



BN-7998X--The micrometer, or height gage, for measuring the height of the thick albumen. The "Haugh" test is used under quality control program.



N-37126--Under the USDA grader's supervision, an assistant records the weekly data on egg break-out testing results under quality control program.



N-34175--An egg break-out tally sheet on which is recorded the weekly data on egg break-out testing results under quality control program.